

FULL NAME	DUTY TO COOPERATE	LEGALLY COMPLIANT	SOUND	WHICH PART	WHICH PARAGRAPHS	WHICH POLICY	WHICH POLICY MAP	WHICH DIAGRAM	WHICH TABLE
Mr Jonathan Restarick	No	No	No	Policy		New initiative needed to address open space shortfalls Paragraph 8.3 Policy EV9 Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation 4(2) Not sound, not positively prepared			

WHY PLAN NOT SOUND	MODIFICATIONS	HEARINGS	HEARING SESSIONS
<p>The new Local Plan is churning out the same old tired open space policies found in previous Local Plans. These continue to ignore the needs of existing residents as towns expand. To tackle properly the issue of shortfalls, approaches far more radical are needed in meeting the open space needs of the community. The financial burden of open spaces is well known, but the Council should embrace new initiatives that engage residents in contributing to the expansion in provision as well as the enhancement of open spaces. A good example of such an approach be found in Newham with the creation of a Citizens’ Assembly [1].</p> <p>Open space shortfalls are calculated in the Open Spaces Strategy document, but these are not addressed by policies. The Open Spaces Strategy extols the benefits of open space, but the needs of existing residents are being ignored.</p> <p>Paragraph 8.3 in the Pre-submission of the Local Plan states</p> <p>We recognise the intrinsic value of the natural environment, its value as natural capital and the range of ecosystem services that it provides. We also recognise that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation contribute to health and well-being and to the cohesion of our communities.</p> <p>As development expands, there is the need to make sure those being surrounded are given their share of open space. Public Health England in its report on ‘Improving access to greenspace’ [1], states that</p> <p>as urban areas expand or become denser, the amount of good quality greenspace is likely to decline, unless determined efforts are made to maintain and/or increase it.</p> <p>The Council is not actively seeking to address shortfalls; no determined efforts are apparent.</p> <p>Further, NPPF 96 (2018) states that</p> <p>Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.</p> <p>EV9 makes no attempt to address the shortfalls in open space for existing residents. To fail to do so is a disservice to the community and abandonment of its duty to care for the health and wellbeing of residents.</p>	<p>The following policies must be introduced</p> <p>1. Set up a Citizen’s Assembly with the aim of generating a range of creative ideas to satisfy the provision targets and quality of open spaces.</p> <p>2. The Council must be proactive in facilitating and supporting the operations of the Citizen’s Assembly.</p> <p>3. The specific target must be to eliminate open space shortfalls in the Borough specified in the Open Spaces Strategy [3] by the end of the five-year Local Plan period.</p> <p>4. Within the Borough, Nanpantan Ward Residents’ Group has published an approach to reduce its substantial open space shortfall at no cost to the Council [4]. The Council must immediately support this community-led initiative to demonstrate it is serious about working with residents to address shortfalls.</p> <p>References</p> <p>[1] Newham Council, Newham residents find innovative ways to green the borough, https://www.newham.gov.uk/news/article/668/newham-residents-find-innovative-ways-to-green-the-borough</p> <p>[2] Public Health England, Improving access to greenspace, a new review for 2020, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to_greenspace_2020_review.pdf</p> <p>[3] Charnwood Borough Council, Open Spaces Strategy 2018-2036, https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/files/documents/open_spaces_strategy_2019/Open%20Spaces%20Strategy%2C%202019.pdf</p> <p>[4] Nanpantan Ward Residents’ Group, The future of Leconfield open space https://cdn.website-editor.net/a8c2488736374401aecb8666b24a1266/files/uploaded/The%2520future%2520of%2520Leconfield%2520open%2520space%25200.2.pdf</p>	<p>No</p>	